

CURRENT AFFAIRS - FEBRUARY 2021

TAMIL NADU NEWS

Integrated and Inclusive Public Grievance CM Helpline

- For effective and speedy disposal of public grievances, the state government issued a Government Order on setting up of Integrated and Inclusive Public Grievance CM Helpline Management System (IIPGCMS).
- This system will help integrate the grievance redressal mechanisms and helplines of all departments and will bring them on a single platform.
- A help desk, with helpline number '1100' would be set up as part of the scheme.

TN State Awards

- C Narayanasamy Naidu award for highest productivity in rice was given to G Selvakumar, North Srivilliputhur village.
- K.A. Abdul Jabbar from Coimbatore district received the KottaiAmeer Communal Harmony Award for 2021.
- Gandhi Adigal Police Medal to following four police personnel
 1. T Magudeeswari - St Thomas Mount
 2. N Selvaraju- Salem
 3. S Shunmuganathan- Srivilliputhur and
 4. S Rajasekaran- Thiruvannamalai.
- Anna Medal for Gallantry awardees are
 1. P. Mullai – The teacher who saved her 26 students from the LPG explosion
 2. A. Prakash - Forest Veterinary Assistant Surgeon who involved in the rescue of an elephant that fell into a 60-feet deep well.
 3. Loco Pilot J. Suresh - saved the lives of over 1,500 passengers on board the train

Memorial of former CM J Jayalalithaa :-

- It is modelled on a phoenix to depict her political resurgence against all odds.
- Her signature slogan "MakkalaiNaanMakkalukkagaNaan" is brightly engraved on the mausoleum.

SMART AND NEXT GEN BIKES :-

- Smart bikes and next generation bikes were launched by chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami at the Marina beach.
- It is the part of a Greater Chennai Corporation initiative.

IIT-M cultural fest 'Saarang'

- Indian Institute of Technology, Madras (IIT-M) has announced that the institute's annual cultural fest, Saarang will be held online this year.

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- It is its first online edition.
- The theme of Saarang will be “Vintage Vogue”.

New projects and schemes

- Tamil Nadu chief minister Edappadi K Palaniswami launched a crop loan waiver scheme on 13th February.
- CM launched the seventh phase of excavations at the Keeladi site in Sivaganga district.
- He laid the foundation stone for construction of four check dams across the river Tamiraparani in Tuticorin district.

New industrial and MSME policies

- The Tamil Nadu government on February 16 announced a new industrial policy.
- It aims to achieve four key objectives
 - Attract investments worth over ₹10-lakh crore (\$135 billion) by 2025,
 - Achieve annual growth rate of 15 per cent in the manufacturing sector during the policy period,
 - Increase contribution of manufacturing sector to 30 per cent of the state's economy by 2030 from 25 per cent now and
 - Create over 20 lakh jobs by 2025. MSME Policy
- The Chief Minister also unveiled a new MSME Policy to offer a vibrant ecosystem for MSMEs/Start-ups.
- It set a target to
 - Attract new investments worth ₹2-lakh crore by 2025 and
 - Create additional employment opportunities for 20 lakh people.

Oil & Gas sector projects in Tamil Nadu

- He dedicated the Ramanathapuram-Thoothukudi natural gas pipeline and Gasoline Desulphurisation Unit at Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited, Manali.

Bonded Labour System Abolition Day

- Tamil Nadu government has announced that it will observe February 9 as Bonded Labour System Abolition Day.
- Union government enacted the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act on February 9, 1976.

Helpline No '1100'

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- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister launched a helpline service for expeditious redressal of people's grievances.
- Under this, the public may register their complaints by calling a toll-free number '1100.'
- Alternatively, they may send complaints through e-mail at cmhelpline@tn.gov.in.
- Also, they can file by using a mobile app 'CMHelpline Citizen' on their smart phones and lodge their complaints.

Tamil Nadu Interim Budget

- Tamil Nadu Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister O. Panneerselvam presented the interim Budget ahead of the State elections.
- TN's GSDP as per Revised Estimates 2020-21 is at Rs. 19.43 lakh crore.
- It is estimated to increase to Rs. 23.42 lakh crore in 2021-22.
- The government incurred an expenditure of 13,352.85 crore on the Covid response.
- It is providing accident-cum-life insurance cover for 55.67 lakh breadwinners from Below the Poverty Line (BPL) families.
- It enhanced medical insurance cover for government employees from 4 lakhs to 5 lakhs.
- The subsidy for roofing under the Prime Minister's housing scheme has been hiked to Rs. 70,000.

Allocations

- An allocation of Rs 144 crore has been set aside for Amma Mini Clinics.
- For the Higher Education department, Rs 5,478.19 crore has been allocated.
- Rs 688.48 crore allocated for the welfare of persons with disability.
- Rs 7,217 crore were allocated for fisheries.
- Rs. 1738 crore allocated towards the state's agriculture sector.
- Additional Rs. 5000 crores allocated towards crop loan waiver.

NATIONAL NEWS

Bangladesh army in Republic Day parade

- For the first time, a marching contingent of Bangladesh tri-services participated in the Republic Day Parade.
- It is commemorating the India's victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war
- That war led to the creation of Bangladesh.
- The 122-member contingent of the Bangladesh Armed Forces comprising soldiers of the Bangladesh Army, Navy and Air Force has participated in this.

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- It was led by the contingent Commander Lieutenant Colonel Abu Mohammed ShahnourShawon and his deputies.

National Marine Turtle Action Plan

- It was released by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) in New Delhi.
- The Ministry also released the 'Marine Mega Fauna Stranding Guidelines' along with the Marine Turtle Action Plan.
- Both these documents include the ways and measures to promote inter-sectoral action for conservation.

India's Agreement with IEA

- Framework for Strategic Partnership between the International Energy Agency (IEA) members and the Government of India was signed recently.
- This framework aims to strengthen mutual trust and cooperation
- It will enhance global energy security, stability and sustainability.
- It would be a stepping stone towards India becoming a full member of the IEA
- IEA is an autonomous intergovernmental organization
- It is established in 1974 as per the framework of the organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Republic Day tableaux :-

- The Ram Temple tableau of Uttar Pradesh has bagged the first prize among all tableaux.
- It was on display during the Republic Day 2021.
- Its theme was 'Ayodhya: Cultural Heritage of Uttar Pradesh'.
- The Tripura tableau won the second prize for the Republic Day parade.
- Uttarakhand's tableau was adjudged third among the states and union territories.
- Its theme was 'DevBhoomi — The Land of the Gods'.
- The tableau of Central Public Works Department (CPWD) bagged a special prize for paying tribute to the fallen heroes of the armed forces.
- Its theme was 'Amar Jawan'.

Kala Utsav:-

- This programme was initiated under RashtriyaMadhyamikShikshaAbhiyan (RMSA).
- RMSA has now been merged with other schemes.
- Now It was under 'SamagraShiksha – an integrated scheme for school education'.
Winners of

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India Justice report-2020 :-

- It is prepared by the Tata Trusts in collaboration with the
 - Centre for Social Justice,
 - Common Cause,
 - DAKSH organisation,
 - Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy and
 - The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative.
- Maharashtra was ranked topmost among 18 states for the second time in a row.
- It was followed by Tamil Nadu and Telangana.
- Uttar Pradesh remains last.
- Amongst the smaller states, Goa remained at the top and Arunachal Pradesh at the bottom.

125th Anniversary of “Prabuddha Bharat” :-

- The 125th anniversary celebration ‘PrabuddhaBharata’ was held on January 31, 2021.
- ‘PrabuddhaBharata’ is a monthly magazine of the Ramakrishna Order.
- This magazine was founded in the year 1896 by P. Aiyasami, B. R. Rajamlyer, G. G. Narasimhacharya, and B. V. Kamesvaralyer
- It was started under the guidance of Swami Vivekananda.
- The journal was published in Chennai for 2 years.
- After that, the magazine started publishing from Almora.
- From April 1899, the magazine started publishing from AdvaitaAshrama, Kolkata.

NEW MINOR FOREST PRODUCES UNDER MSP :-

- The government has decided to include 14 new minor forest produce items under the Minimum Support Price (MSP).
- The items included in the scheme are Tasar Cocoon, bamboo shoot, elephant apple dry, wild dry mushroom and malkangani seed.

Using mobile phones in RajyaSabha

- The RajyaSabha Chairman, recently warned MPs against using the mobile phones to record the proceedings of the House.
- Unauthorised recordings and its circulation on social media are a breach of Parliamentary privilege.
- It will be considered as contempt of the House.
- The Parliamentary rules does not allow the usage of mobile phones within RajyaSabha chambers.

Aero India 2021

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- The 13th edition of India's premier aerospace and defence exhibition, Aero India 2021 kickstarted in Bengaluru at Air Force Station Yelahanka.
- It held a combination of both physical and virtual exhibition
- It is the biennial international event.
- This edition is the world's first hybrid aerospace show.

Second most resilient economy in 2021

- India will emerge as the second most resilient economy in 2021
- It is stated in the International Economic Resilience (IER) Rank.
- It is released by the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI).
- The ranking has been topped by Germany, among the top-10 leading economies.
- South Korea is at the third position in the list.

YudhAbhyas joint military exercise

- The 16th edition of 'YudhAbhyas', India – US joint military exercise, will be held in Rajasthan.
- The drill has come days after the air forces of France and India held a 5-day joint exercise in Rajasthan.
- The joint military exercise near the India-Pakistan border aims at enhancing the interoperability and cooperation between the two armies.
- It will also be focusing on counter-terrorism operations under the United Nations mandate.

Voluntary Vehicle Scrappage Policy

- This proposal was made during the presentation of the Union Budget for Financial Year 2022.
- It will help to scrap out the unfit and pollution-causing vehicles.
- It will also help in encouraging the fuel-efficient and environment-friendly vehicles.
- This policy would apply to central and state government-owned vehicles from April 1, 2022.

Agricultural infrastructure and development cess (AIDC)

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed the imposition of AIDC during her Union Budget 2021.
- The cess is not uniform and will vary from product to product.
- Cess of Rs 2.5 per litre on petrol and Rs 4 per litre on diesel are announced.
- Consequently, unbranded petrol and diesel will attract basic excise duty of Rs 1.4 and Rs 1.8 per litre respectively.

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- Further, Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) on unbranded petrol and diesel shall be Rs 11 and Rs 8 per litre respectively.
- It includes M-15 petrol and E-20 petrol.

PM AatmaNirbharSwasth Bharat Yojana and the Mission Poshan 2.0

- Finance Minister of India has announced two new centrally sponsored scheme namely,
 - The PM AatmaNirbharSwasth Bharat Yojana and
 - The Mission Poshan 2.0
- This was announced in addition to the National Health Mission (NHM).
- Mission Poshan 2.0 is aimed at improving and strengthening nutritional content, delivery and outcomes.
- This scheme will merge the PoshanAbhiyan and the Supplementary Nutrition Programme.

JalJeevan Mission (Urban)

- The urban water supply mission under the JalJeevan Mission was announced in the Budget.
- It would include rejuvenation of water bodies as well as 20% of supply from reused water.
- There is an estimated gap of 2.68 crore urban household tap connections. The Mission would seek to bridge that gap in all 4,378 statutory towns.
- It would also aim to bridge the gap of 2.64 crore sewer connections in the 500 cities.
- It will be under the existing Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).

National Horticulture Fair 2021

- It is a five-day event
- It was organised at the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research (IIHR) campus.
- It held virtually as well as offline.
- The theme of the fair is 'Horticulture for Start-Up and Stand-Up India'.
- IIHR institute is a subsidiary of Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).

First women team of CoBRA

- 34 CRPF women personnel were inducted into the specialized jungle warfare commando force called CoBRA.
- The contingent would now be deployed in the anti-naxal operations grid of India.
- COBRA is a special operation unit of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) of India.

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- The operation unit is skilled in the guerrilla tactics and jungle warfare.
- It was established in the year 2009 to counter the Naxalite problem.

MCA21 Version 3.0

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs will launch the data analytics-driven MCA21 Version 3.0 by October 2021.
- MCA21 Version 3.0 system is the Mission Mode e-Governance project of India.
- This project will comprise of the additional modules for e-Adjudication, eConsultation, and Compliance Management.

PradhanMantriUrja Ganga project

- The Prime Minister dedicated LPG import terminal to nation.
- It is part of the PradhanMantriUrja Ganga project.
- Totally, the pipeline length of 2540 km is under construction from the states of Uttar Pradesh to Odisha.
- It aims to provide piped cooking gas to the households of Varanasi within next two years and to millions of others in neighbour states after one more year. Length wise distribution

Dismantling of INS Viraat

- The Supreme Court put on hold the further dismantling of INS Viraat.
- Envitech Marine Consultants Pvt Ltd has been looking to acquire the warship and convert INS Viraat into a maritime museum.

Registered Unrecognized Political Parties

- The number of registered unrecognised political parties has increased two-fold from 2010 to 2019.
- It was established in 1999 and is situated at New Delhi.
- There are 2,360 political parties registered with the Election Commission of India.
- In that, 97.50% of them are unrecognised.
- The following are considered as unrecognised parties:
 - o Either newly registered parties
 - o Those which have not secured enough percentage of votes in the assembly elections or General elections to become a state party or
 - o Those which have never contested elections since being registered

SAKSHAM portal

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- The Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC) launched a job portal called SAKSHAM.
- It will help in eliminating the middlemen and labour contractors.
- The portal will also help in the development of skill cards for 'shramiks' (workers).

Seaweed Cultivation Mission

- TIFAC (Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council) launched a Seaweed Cultivation Mission.
- It aims to encourage the commercial farming of seaweeds and its processing.
- The Seaweed Cultivation is also called as the kelp farming.

Manual scavengers Data

- A total of 66,692 manual scavengers have been identified across the country.
- 340 people have died while cleaning sewers and tanks in the last five years.
- Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Haryana and Karnataka have accounted for nearly 75 per cent of total deaths.
- Uttar Pradesh (52), Tamil Nadu (43) and Delhi (36) were topping the list.

Resignation of Rajya Sabha MP

- Trinamool Congress MP Dinesh Trivedi announced his resignation in the Rajya Sabha.

India's first CNG tractor

- The Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari launched India's first CNG tractor.
- It can help the farmers save over Rs 1 lakh annually on fuel costs.
- It has been converted to a CNG tractor jointly by Rawmatt Techno Solutions and Tomasetto Achille India.

Business Confidence Index (BCI)

- It is developed by the Delhi-based economic think tank National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER).
- According to the index, Business Confidence rose 29.6 per cent between second and third quarter of the current financial year.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Residential Schools

- To honour Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the Union government has decided to name residential schools and hostels funded under Samagra Shiksha scheme.

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- So far, a total of 1063 residential facilities (383 residential Schools and 680 Hostels) were sanctioned to different States and UTs.

Digital insurance policies

- Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has asked insurers to issue digital policies in Digilocker to their policyholders.
- Digilocker is an initiative under the Digital India programme by the government.
- Using this, citizen can get authentic documents/ certificate in digital format from original issuers of these certificates.

RashtriyaSanskritiMahotsav

- The 11th RashtriyaSanskritiMahotsav was inaugurated at West Bengal.
- It is organised under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Programme, since 2015.
- It aims to celebrate the idea of unity in diversity

e-Chhawani Portal

- The Defence Minister of India Rajnath Singh has launched the e-Chhawani portal.
- Using this portal, the residents of Cantonment areas can now register their complaints with respect to the civic issues.

Amendments for Privatization

- The Amendments will be made in the following two acts in order to facilitate the privatisation of public sector banks (PSBs).
 - Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act1970 and,
 - Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1980.

Digital Intelligence Unit

- It will act as a nodal agency to deal with complaints of unsolicited commercial communication (UCC) and cases of financial fraud, especially in the digital payments space.
- Apart from the DIU, a Telecom Analytics for Fraud Management and Consumer Protection (TAFMCP) will also be set up at all the 22 license service area levels.

Indian Sign Language dictionary

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- The ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment released the 3rd edition of the Indian Sign Language (ISL) Dictionary.
- The new edition will comprise of 10,000 terms of daily.
- Its first edition was released in the year 2018 with 3,000 terms.

Go Electric Campaign

- The Union Minister of Road, Transport & Highways, NitinGadkari, had launched the 'Go Electric Campaign'.
- The campaign would also raise awareness regarding e-mobility and electric cooking across India.

100 percent Cashless Toll Collection

- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has successfully achieved 100 percent cashless toll collection at the National Highway fee plazas in the entire country.
- All lanes across the fee plazas on National Highways have been declared as FASTag lanes in effect from February 16, 2021.
- The total penetration of FASTag has reached to 87 percent in the country till date.

Role in State's quota decisions

- The Centre has told the Supreme Court that it has no role in the choices made by the Tamil Nadu government with regard to the provision of reservation for specific castes or communities in State government jobs and admissions.
- The Centre was responding to a petition challenging the constitutionality of the Tamil Nadu Backward Classes, Sc and ST (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act – 1993.
- It provides 69% reservation in the State.

Centre's stand

- Inclusion or exclusion of any caste/community in the State List of SEBCs is the subject matter of the State government, and the Government of India has no role in the matter.
- The power to identify and specify SEBCs lies with Parliament only with reference to the Central List.
- Under the newly-inserted Article 342A of the Constitution (One hundred and second Amendment) Act of 2018, the President notifies the SEBCs in a State after consultation with the Governor.

National Toy Fair

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- The first-ever National Toy Fair will be starting from the February 27th.
- IIT Gandhinagar is the only IIT in the country running this centre for creative learning.
- The toy fair is being organised by the Ministry of Textiles.

6th meeting of Governing Council of NITI Aayog

- The Prime Minister chaired the sixth meeting of the Governing Council of NITI Aayog.
- The agenda of the meeting included deliberations on agriculture, infrastructure, manufacturing, human resource development, service delivery at the grassroots level, and health and nutrition.
- The sixth meeting also witnessed the entry of Ladakh for the first time, in addition to the participation of Jammu and Kashmir as a UT.

Puducherry Government resign

- V Narayanasamy, the Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Puducherry, has submitted the letter of his council of ministers' resignation.
- The decision was taken as the Congress-led Government in the UT lost its majority (14 seats) in the Assembly.
- Two MLAs have resigned in January 2021 while another 2 MLAs resigned in February 2021. Operational guidelines to Integrate NAFLD

Mission Indradhanush 3.0

- Mission Indradhanush scheme was launched in 2014 to provide affordable and accessible healthcare to all citizens of the country.
- It aims to expand immunization coverage across the country.
- The focus of IMI 3.0 will be on children and pregnant women who missed their vaccine doses during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Skill center for fire safety training

- It was inaugurated at Pilkhuwa in Uttar Pradesh.
- This facility has been created by Delhi based DRDO laboratory 'Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES)'.

8 toy manufacturing clusters

- It aims to boost India's traditional toys industry.
- These clusters will manufacture toys made of wood, Lacquer, palm leaves, bamboo and fabric.

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- 8 clusters will be formed in these states Madhya Pradesh: 3, Rajasthan: 2 , Karnataka: 1, Uttar Pradesh: 1, Tamil Nadu: 1.

NarendraModi Stadium.

- The world's largest cricket stadium at Motera in Ahmedabad was renamed the NarendraModi Stadium.
- The enclave is spread in over 220 acres on the Sabarmati river bank in the north east area of Ahmedabad in Gujarat.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Alpha Global union

- Google workers from all around the globe have formed an international union called the "Alpha Global".
- The new union has been named after Google's parent company Alphabet.
- The union was formed in coordination with Union Network International.

UN Report on Ageing Dams :-

- This report was titled 'Ageing water infrastructure: An emerging global risk'.
- As per this report, by 2050 most of the people on the Earth will live downstream of tens of thousands of dams built in the 20th century.
- There are 58,700 large dams across the world.
- Most of them were built between 1930 and 1970 with a design life of 50 to 100 years.
- This analysis also included dam ageing case studies from India, France, the U.S., Canada, Japan, Zimbabwe, and Zambia.
- 55% of the world's total large dams or around 32,716 large dams are found in just four Asian countries: India, China, South Korea, and Japan.
- The problem of dam ageing is confronted by 25 nations.
- 93% of large dams are located in these countries only

Startup India Seed Fund Scheme

- The government has notified the Startup India seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) with a corpus of Rs.945 crore.
- It was released by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).
- SISFS is a scheme aimed at providing financial assistance to startups for product trails, proof of concept, market-entry, prototype development, and commercialization.

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World Neglected Tropical Diseases

- Neglected Tropical Diseases are the tropical infections caused by viruses, protozoa, bacteria and parasitic worms.
- These are the diseases that get less importance and treatment as compared to the major diseases like HIV / AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis.
- NTDs affect over 1.7 billion people living in the poorest countries.
- Some of the NTDs are Buruli ulcer, Lymphatic filariasis, Rabies, Bengue and Chikungunya etc.

Covid-19 Performance Index

- Lowy Institute, an Australian think-tank, has recently released a COVID-19 “performance index”.
- As per the index, New Zealand is the best-performing country against Covid-19.
- Vietnam has been ranked 2nd
- Vietnam is followed by Taiwan, Thailand and Cyprus on the 3rd, 4th and 5th rank respectively.
- The index assessed the relative COVID-19 performance of 98 countries.
- India has been ranked 86th on the index while the United States has been placed at 94th position.
- The neighbouring countries of India, Sri Lanka has been ranked 10th , the Maldives at 25th, Nepal at 70th, Pakistan at 69th, and Bangladesh at 84th .
- Brazil has been placed at the bottom of this index.

EDISON Alliance :-

- World Economic Forum (WEF) has announced the launch of an Essential Digital Infrastructure and
- Services Network (EDISON) Alliance.
- WEF will serve as the secretariat and platform for the EDISON Alliance.
- This Alliance aims to work towards ensuring global and equitable access to the digital economy.

Rare Mineral Found in Antarctica :-

- A rare maritime mineral, Jarosite, has been found in the Antarctica ice.
- It was discovered after drilling deep into Antarctic ice.
- This supports the theory of presence of jarosite on MARS in a similar manner.
- The minerals are able to form in thick deposits on mars

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- Because the planet is a lot dustier than Antarctica.

UAE's new Citizenship Policy :-

- The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has announced its new citizenship policy.
- The government has planned to offer citizenship to a select group of foreigners.
- It became the first Gulf Arab nation that formalized the process of giving expatriates in the bigger

Stake of the economy.

- UAE earlier used to give citizenship to some foreigners in special cases.
- They were given citizenship for providing service to the state.

OXFORD HINDI WORD OF 2020 :-

- 'Aatmanirbharta' has been named as the Hindi word of the year 2020 by Oxford Languages.
- Previous Hindi words of the year are Aadhaar (2017), Nari Shakti (2018) and Samvidhaan (2019).
- The Oxford Hindi word of the year is chosen to reflect the ethos, mood, or preoccupations of the past year.

Myanmar coup 3.0

- The Myanmar military grabbed power in a coup on February 1.
- This is the third time in the nation's history since its independence from British rule in 1948.
- In 1962, the military took over from a civilian government for the first time.
- That coup amended the official name in 1974 to the 'Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma'.
- Then in 1988, Myanmar's armed forces again took power in the country.
- This time it reversed the official name to 'Union of Burma'.
- But after one year, the ruler of that time adopted a law that replaced Burma with Myanmar.
- It made the country the 'Union of Myanmar'.

U.K. to join Asia – Pacific free trade pact

- U.K. government will join the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP)
- It is one of the world's largest free-trade Partnership.
- It made up of 11 developed and emerging economies in the Pacific.

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- U.K. left the European Union (EU) on January 31st last year.

State Administrative Council - Myanmar

- The Military regime in Myanmar has established a new State Administrative Council
- The administrative council is headed by the Army Chief General Min Aung Hlaing.
- It comprises of total 11 members.
- 8 out of 11 members are from the military.

World's First 'Energy Island.

- Denmark has approved a project to build the world's first energy island, in the North Sea.
- It will produce and store enough green energy to meet the electricity needs of three million households in the European countries.
- The hub will strengthen the integration of Europe's power grids.
- Also, it will increase the renewable electricity production.
- It is necessary for a climate-neutral Europe.

World Sustainable Development Summit 2021

- Indian Prime Minister has inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit 2021.
- It was organised by 'The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).

Shahtoot dam agreement

- India and Afghanistan signed an agreement to build the Shahtoot Dam in Kabul.
- It is one of the five river basins of Afghanistan.

Trump's impeachment

- US Senate declares that the second impeachment of former President Donald Trump is constitutional.

AMAN exercise

- Pakistan Navy organised the Exercise Aman off the coast of Karachi.
- A total of 46 countries including US, China, Russia, UK, Turkey, Iran, Indonesia is participating.

US-Mexico Border Wall Project

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- The US President has revoked the emergency order that was issued by former President Donald Trump
- In 2019, the Trump administration had signed the executive order.
- That order has declared the national emergency so as to build US-Mexico border wall.
- The emergency was announced after repeated clash with the lawmakers regarding the funding for the project

Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture

- Members of the COFI (Committee on Fisheries) 34th session supported the firstever Declaration for Sustainable Fisheries & Aquaculture.
- COFI 34 is the 34th Session of UNFAO's Committee on Fisheries.
- COFI 34 marks the 25th Anniversary of the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries (adopted in 1995).

Pakistan War games

- The Pakistan Army is holding a month-long exercise in the Thar Desert in Sindh province.
- The exercise, codenamed 'Jidar-ul-Hadeed', began on January 28-February 28

New START nuclear disarmament treaty

- The United States has extended the "New START" nuclear disarmament treaty with Russia for a period of five years.
- The New START treaty was set to expire on February 5, 2021.
- But both the parties have further extended it for five more years, till February 2026

Comprehensive economic cooperation and partnership agreement

- The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a comprehensive economic cooperation and partnership agreement (CECPA) between India and Mauritius.
- It aims to liberalising the norms to boost a two-way commerce.

New Low-Carbon range of Concrete

- ACC Ready Mix Concrete has introduced its new low carbon range of concrete named ECOPact.
- It is a Green Concrete for high-performing, sustainable and circular construction.
- It was launched in Mumbai and Hyderabad in the first phase

Global Covid-19 Vaccination Plan

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- UN asked the G20 nations to prepare a “Global Covid-19 Vaccination Plan”.
- WHO’s COVAX scheme has signed the deal with Pfizer-BioNTech for 40 million doses of coronavirus vaccine for the poorer countries.

World Solar Bank

- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) have planned to launch the World Solar Bank (WSB) at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow.
- The headquarter of the World Solar Bank is expected to be set up in India.
- The WSB have planned to disburse around \$50 billion to the member countries of ISA over next 10 years. ECO

India-Australia circular Economy Hackathon

- The Prime Minister addressed the valedictory function of the India Australia Circular Economy Hackathon (I-ACE).
- More than 200 participants in 39 teams from India and 33 teams from Australia took part in this.

World Future Fuel Summit 2021

- The World Future Fuel Summit and Expo 2021 was organized by the Energy and Environment Foundation.
- It showcases state-of-art technologies in clean future energy for globally.

Women in Armed Forces

- Saudi Arabia has opened up the armed forces for Women.
- Now, the female recruits can now trade their abayas for military uniforms.
- However, the applicants married to non-Saudi citizens will not be eligible for the recruitment.

World’s 1st Case of H5N8 Avian Flu

- Russia reported the first case of transmission of the H5N8 strain of avian flu to humans.
- The H5N8 is a sub-type of the Influenza A virus.
- It causes flu-like symptoms in birds and mammals.
- There was no sign yet of transmission between humans.

NAVDEX 21 and IDEX 21

- Indian Naval Ship Pralaya reached Abu Dhabi to participate in the Naval Defence Exhibition (NAVDEX 21) and International Defence Exhibition (IDEX 21).

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- NAVDEX 21 and IDEX 21 is one of the leading international naval and defence exhibitions of the region.

STATE NEWS

First Young Readers' Boat Library:-

- The West Bengal Transport Corporation has launched the First Young Readers' Boat Library.
- The library has been launched in collaboration with a heritage book store.
- The boat library will cruise on the Hooghly river

First Gender Park :-

- The country's first "Gender Park" in Kerala will become functional soon.
- The three-tower "Gender Park" is a step of the state towards gender equality.
- It will become operational on February 11 coinciding with the second edition of the International Conference on Gender Equality (ICGE-II)
- On that day, the foundation of the International Women's Trade and Research Centre (IWTRC) will also be laid down.

Kerala's First Human Milk Bank

- Kerala's first Human Milk Bank, 'Nectar of Life', was opened at Ernakulam General Hospital.
- It is set up with the support of the Rotary Club of Cochin Global.
- It will ensure the availability of the breast milk for new-born babies who are not breastfed by their own mothers.

8th India International Silk Fair :-

- The Textiles Minister of India, Smritilrani, inaugurated the 8th India International Silk Fair on the Virtual Portal.
- This fair is the biggest silk fair of India.
- The fair is being held under the virtual platform of Indian Silk Export Promotion Council.

15th Finance Commission report :-

- The final report of the Fifteenth Finance Commission of India for FY 2021-22 to FY 2025-26 was tabled in the Parliament.

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- The Finance Commissions generally submit their reports for a five-year duration.
- The report has been organized in four volumes:
 - Volume I and II – Main report.
 - Volume III: Focused on centre - it examines key departments in greater depth, with the medium-term challenges and the roadmap ahead.
 - Volume IV: Entirely focused on states - it analyses the finances of each State in great depth and has recommended state-specific considerations to address the key challenges that individual States face.

India's first Igloo Café

- This is country's first café built of snow.
- It is Asia's biggest Igloo Café
- It is located at the ski resort in Gulmarg, Kashmir.
- The resort is situated in the PirPanjal Range of the Himalayas at an altitude of 2,650 metre.

Lithium deposits in Karnataka

- The Central Government has confirmed the presence of 1600 tones of lithium deposits in Mandya district of Karnataka.
- The survey was done on the surface and limited subsurface in the pegmatites of Marlagalla – Allapatna area.
- This survey was done by the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMD).
- The AMD is a constituent unit under the Department of Atomic Energy.
- The first Lithium plant of India has been set up at Gujarat in the year 2021

Operation smile

- Under 'Operation Smile – VII' from January 1 till January 29, 2021, the Cyberabad police of Telangana rescued as many as 389 children.
- Out of the total rescued children, 249 (222 boys and 27 girls) belong to the Telangana state, whereas 140 (114 boys and 26 girls) belong to 14 other states.
- Under 'Operation Smile', missing children details were entered in DARPAN app.
- This app is a unique facial recognition tool developed by the Telangana police

Power Sector reforms – Andhra Pradesh

- Andhra Pradesh has become the second State to implement the power sector reforms.
- The state has implemented the one of the three reforms that was brought in 2020.

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- It also completed One Nation One Ration Card reform, Ease of Doing Business Reforms and Urban Local Bodies Reforms besides the power sector reforms.
- Before this, Madhya Pradesh undertook the reforms in the power sector.

TapovanVishnugad power plant

- An avalanche near Tapovan in Uttarakhand has damaged a part of our underconstruction hydropower project TapovanVishnugad.
- Earlier in the day, a glacier broke off in Joshimath in Uttarakhand'sChamoli district.

MukhyamantriVigyanPratibhaPariksha' Scheme

- Under this scheme Rs 5,000 will be provided to 1,000 meritorious students of Class 9 in schools of Delhi as a science scholarship.
- The scholarship will provide a boost to science education in secondary classes at the school level.

'Jalabhishekam' Water Conservation Campaign

- Rajnath Singh, Indian Defence Minister inaugurated 57,000 water structures under the "Jalabhishekam Water Conservation Campaign".
- These water structures were constructed in Madhya Pradesh.
- The conservation work will help to achieve the goal of water conservation and build a self-reliant Madhya Pradesh.

Completion of Urban Local Bodies reforms

- Goa has become the 6th State in the country that have successfully completed the Urban Local Bodies reforms.
- These Urban Local Bodies reforms were set up by the Department of Expenditure.
- It aims to strengthening the finance of the Urban Local Bodies in States.
- The five other states - Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Rajasthan and Telangana.

COVID Warrior Memorial

- Odisha government has decided to construct a Covid Warrior Memorial in BijuPatnaik Park at Bhubaneswar.
- It aims to recognize the sacrifice and services rendered by the Covid warriors who lost their lives fighting the pandemic.

Climate-resilient development pathway

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- Bihar signed a memorandum of understanding with the UNEP to achieve climate resilience and low carbon development by 2040.
- Bihar is the first state of India which signed such kind of MOU.

Rajasthan Prison Rules – 1951

- The Rajasthan government has amended the Rajasthan Prison Rules, 1951 recently.
- The move was aimed to do away with the caste-based assignment of labour.

One Nation One Ration Card system reform

- Punjab has become the 13th State in the country to successfully undertake “One Nation One Ration Card system” reform.

‘Maa’ canteens

- The West Bengal government launched a new scheme to provide a cheap cooked meal to the poor across the state.
- It provides state-subsidised daily meals at lunchtime to the poor.

Kochi Water Metro project

- The CM of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan, has inaugurated the first route and terminal buildings of Kochi Water Metro.
- This project connects the islands across the city with the help of state-of-the-art boats.

UP Abhyudaya scheme

- The government of Uttar Pradesh has started UP Abhyudaya scheme to provide free coaching for competitive exams.
- It includes JEE, NEET, NDA, CDS and UPSC. PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENT

KFC debit cards

- Kerala Financial Corporation (KFC) will soon issue debit cards.
- These cards will be branded by public sector banks and cards will be issued in Rupay and platinum formats.
- It is for the first time in the country that a state government financial institution is issuing debit cards.

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Tree City of the World

- Hyderabad city (Telangana's Capital) has been recognised as a '2020 Tree City of the World'.
- This recognition given by the Arbor Day Foundation and the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO).
- It is the only City in India to get this recognition so far.

Snakepedia mobile app

- A team of scientists, doctors and photographers in Kerala have launched a mobile application named "Snakepedia".
- The main aim of the app
 - help the public identify snakes
 - avail proper treatment on time for snakebites
 - bust myths about snakes,
 - protect snakes as well as snakebite victims

Pugalur - Thrissur power transmission project

- Prime Minister inaugurates the 320 KV Pugalur (Tamil Nadu) - Thrissur (Kerala) power transmission project.
- It is a Voltage Source Converter (VSC) based High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) Project.
- It has India's first HVDC link featuring state-of-the-art VSC technology.

100% tap water connections to schools

- Telangana has provided tap water connections to all schools and anganwadis in the State.
- Previously, the State had become the only one, along with Goa, to provide functional tap connections to all households.
- It was taken up under the 100-day special campaign of the Ministry of Jal Shakti under the JalJeevan Mission.

India's First Digital University

- Country's first Digital University has been set up in Kerala's Technocity, Mangalapuram.
- It will focus on postgraduate programmes and research.

Road Constructed Using Plastic Waste

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- In a first-ever initiative in Tripura, the state has started using non-recyclable plastic waste in the construction of roads.
- It aims to reduce plastic waste and make the environment plastic-free.

ECONOMY NEWS

- India and China were the only two countries which saw FDI rising in 2020.
- The rest of the world, including developed economies such as the UK and the US, saw sharp declines.

India's New Central Bank Digital Currency :-

- RBI is in process of examining if India needs a new central bank digital currency (CBDC).
- It is also exploring ways to operationalize the digital currency.
- CBDC is a legal tender and a central bank liability in digital form.
- The digital currency is denominated in a sovereign currency.
- It also appears on the balance sheet of the central bank.
- This is an electronic version of currency.
- It can be converted or exchanged with the similar denominated cash and the traditional central bank deposits.

Debt Overhaul Under G20 Common Framework

- Chad has become the first country to officially request a debt restructuring under a new common framework.
- It is also known as "G20 Common Framework" or "Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI).
- It was introduced by China and other Group of 20 countries last year with the help of the Paris Club.
- Paris Club is a group of officials from major creditor countries
- This Club was established in 1956.

Gold demand hit 25-year low :-

- Gold demand in India hit a 25-year low at 446.4 tonnes in 2020, due to the COVID-19 induced lockdown.
- Total jewellery demand in India for 2020 was down by 42% at 315.9 tonnes.
- Total investment demand for the calendar year was down by 11% at 130.4 tonnes
- India's gold demand dropped by over a third in 2020.

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FIRST WETLAND CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT CENTER

- New Centre for Wetland Conservation and Management (CWCM) will be set-up in Chennai soon.
- It aims to address the knowledge gaps and specific research needs for the conservation and management of wetlands.
- India has 42 Ramsar sites that have been designated as Wetlands of International Importance.
- They cover around 4.6% of Indian landmass.

Risk – based Internal Audit (RBIA)

- RBI on has introduced a risk-based internal audit (RBIA) system
- It has made it mandatory for select non-banking financial companies and urban co-operative banks (UCBs).
- As per the norms, all the deposit-taking non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) with the asset size of Rs.5,000 crore will have to implement this system
- The system is required to be implemented by March 31, 2022

Savings account scheme for children

- Federal Bank has announced the launch of “FedFirst”.
- It is a special savings account scheme for children below 18 years of age.
- The account helps children develop healthy saving and spending habits.
- It will give them the freedom to save, spend and earn.

One Nation One Ombudsman approach

- RBI will integrate the consumer grievances redressal under a single ombudsman.
- It will replace the three grievance redressal schemes working at present.
- Presently, there are dedicated ombudsman schemes for the consumer grievance redressal in the banking, non-bank finance companies and digital transactions.

Committee on Urban Co-operative Banks

- RBI has decided to set up an expert committee on Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs).
- The committee would involve all the stakeholders so as to provide a medium term road map.
- The committee is being set in accordance with the provisions of the Banking Regulation (Amendment) Act, 2020.

World's 3rd largest energy consumer by 2030

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- International Energy Agency (IEA) has released a report recently titled India Energy Outlook 2021.
- As per this report, India will overtake the European Union as the world's third largest energy consumer behind China and the US by 2030.
- This report also says that India is to make up a quarter of global demand growth during 2019-2040.

Corporate India Risk Index

- ICICI Lombard has launched the 'Corporate India Risk Index'.
- This will help the companies to understand the level of risk that their business is facing.

IIF Report on debt

- The Institute of International Finance (IIF) has reported that, World debt reached record \$281 trillion at end of 2020
- This accounts for more than 355 per cent of global GDP.
- This in turn will increase the debt load past \$92 trillion with the end of 2021.

State Bank of Sikkim under RBI

- RBI has brought State Bank of Sikkim under its regulatory purview.
- Till now, RBI had the right and obligation to function as banker to all the state government except for the state government of Sikkim.

India's top Trade Partner

- China has again become India's top trading partner in the year 2020.
- The provisional data from the trade between both the countries in the year 2020 stood at \$77.7 billion.
- However, the trade had decreased as compared to the 2019 trade total of \$85.5 billion.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

World Space Record

- SpaceX recently broke a world space record by launching 143 satellites.
- It beat India's record of deploying 104 satellites in February 2017.
- The launch vehicle for the SpaceX flight was the Falcon 9.
- The mission was designated as Transporter-1.
- The launch marks the first dedicated mission for SpaceX's SmallSat Rideshare Program.

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- With the launched satellites, SpaceX aims at providing near-global broadband internet coverage all over the world by 2021.

NASA Re-discovers 'Lost Galaxy' :-

- Hubble Space Telescope of NASA captured the images of the NGC 4535.
- It is also known as the "Lost Galaxy".
- This Galaxy was discovered in 1785 by William Herschel.
- William Herschel found the planet Uranus.
- The galaxy is located about 50 million light-years from Earth.
- It is one of the largest of some 2,000 galaxies in the Virgo Cluster.

STARDUST 1.0 ROCKET :-

- It became the first-ever commercial space launch powered entirely by Biofuel.
- It is also the first-ever commercial launch for the US State Maine.
- The rocket is manufactured by Maine-based aerospace company bluShift.
- These rockets will help to launch small satellites called CubeSats into space in a way cheaper.

FIRST ALL CIVILIAN MISSION TO SPACE :-

- SpaceX has announced the launch of its first all civilian mission to space.
- It is planning Falcon 9's launch of Inspiration4 mission.

World's Largest Radio Telescope

- The Square Kilometre Array Observatory (SKAO) Council recently held its meeting
- During the meeting, the council has approved the setting up of the world's largest radio telescope.
- Square Kilometre Array Observatory is a new intergovernmental organisation.
- Currently, the SKAO comprises of the organisations from the ten countries. **Upcoming Radio telescope**
 - It can be used to detect the invisible gas and it has the potential to reveal areas of space that might have covered by the cosmic dust.
 - It is different than the conventional optical telescopes in this regard.
 - The Square Kilometre Array is the largest radio telescope across the world.
 - The telescope will be set up in Africa and Australia.
- The Centre has approved tiger reserve status for the sanctuaries spanning the forests of Meghamalai and Srivilliputhur in Tamil Nadu.
- This is home to 63 mammal species and 323 bird species.
- It will be India's 51st tiger reserve and 5th for Tamil Nadu.

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- The Meghamalai Wildlife Sanctuary is spread across the districts of Theni and Madurai (Highway mountains and Cardamom Hills).
- The Srivilliputhur Grizzled Squirrel Wildlife Sanctuary lies along Kerala's Periyar Tiger Reserve.
- The last tiger reserve was notified six years ago in Arunachal Pradesh, Kamlang

Mars ice mapping mission- NASA

- NASA is planning to launch a robotic Mars ice mapping mission in collaboration with three international partners.
- The mission could help identify potential science objectives for initial human missions to Mars.

Missile Ghaznavi

- Pakistan successfully test-fired its nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile called Ghaznavi.
- It is a surface-to-surface short range ballistic missile.
- The ballistic missile has a striking capability of up to 290 kilometres.
- It has also test-fired the nuclear-capable surface-to-surface ballistic missile Shaheen-III in January.
- This missile has the range of up to 2,750 kilometres.

First image of Red Planet

- China's Tianwen-1 space probe has sent back its first image of Mars.
- The spacecraft was launched in July 2020.
- The photo was taken about 2.2 million kilometres from Mars

High altitude pseudo satellite

- The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is developing a futuristic high altitude pseudo satellite with a start-up company.
- These satellites will be solar energised and
- It will be flying unmanned around 70,000 ft for 2-3 months and taking information.
- No country in the world has developed it yet.

First Arab Mars Mission

- UAE's first mission to Mars has arrived at the red planet.
- It is known as the Hope Probe.

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- This achievement makes the UAE only the fifth country in history to reach Mars.
- Also, this is the Arab nation's first interplanetary mission

Concentration of Small Black Holes

- The astronomers have discovered a concentration of smaller black holes in the cluster NGC 6397.
- Small black holes were discovered instead of one massive black hole at the heart of the cluster.
- The cluster NGC 6397 is as old as the universe.
- The cluster is also known as Caldwell 86.
- It is located around 7,800 light-years away.

Humans in space policy 2021

- The Indian Space Research Organisation unveiled a draft "humans in space policy 2021".
- It would look at facilitating participation of non-traditional players in undertaking space activities.

Indigenous mapping solution

- ISRO has joined hands with 'MapmyIndia' to develop a web mapping service like 'Google Maps'.
- MapmyIndia is an Indian technology company that builds digital map data and navigation solutions provider.

Battle Tank Arjun Mark 1A

- Prime Minister dedicated the Main Battle Tank Arjun Mark 1A to the nation.
- The tank has been fully designed and developed by the DRDO in close coordination with the Indian Army.
- The tanks will be produced by the Ordnance Factory Board's Heavy Vehicles Factory of Avadi, Chennai.

Huge Optical Flare

- The Indian astronomers have reported one of the strongest flares from a feeding super massive black hole or blazar called BL Lacertae.
- It also one of the most luminous and energetic objects in the Universe.
- BL Lacertae blazar is 10 million light-years away

India's new instant messaging platform

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- The National Informatics Centre (NIC) has launched an app called Sandes.
- This instant messaging platform is similar to WhatsApp.

TIGER X-1

- The Hyundai Motor Group have designed a walking car concept robot.
- It is being called as TIGER which stands for transforming intelligent ground excursion robot.
- It can be used not only on Earth but on other planets as well.

PiMo - eBike

- The Pi Beam launched the electric two-wheeler called 'PiMO'.
- The electric two-wheeler can charge faster than a smartphone.

Astra Mark 2 Missile

- India will start the testing of the Astra Mark 2 missile soon.
- The missile is capable to take down enemy aircraft from a range of 160 kms.
- The Astra Mark is beyond visual range air-to-air missile - BVRAAM. It flies over 4 times the sound speed at Mach 4.5.

INS Karanj

- Indian Navy got its third Scorpene Submarine under project 75.
- Total 6 submarines of the Indian Navy are being constructed under Project 75.

Arrow-4 missile shield

- Israel is developing a new ballistic missile shield named "Arrow-4" in collaboration with the United States.
- This system can destroy the incoming missiles in the atmosphere and in space.

Landing of Perseverance in Mars

- The USA's Nasa sent rover Perseverance successfully landed on the surface of Mars.
- After landing, two of the Hazard Cameras (Hazcams) captured views from the front and rear of the rover
- It sent photos of mars, including a high-resolution colourselfie taken during its landing.
- It will carry Ingenuity, the first ever helicopter to fly on Mars.
- This is the first time NASA will fly a helicopter on another planet or satellite.

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Clone of black-footed ferret

- The US scientists have successfully cloned an endangered black-footed ferret using frozen cells from a long-dead wild animal.
- It is named as Elizabeth Ann.
- It is created from the cells of Willa, a black-footed ferret
- That has lived more than 30 years ago.

VL-SRSAM Missile System

- The DRDO conducted two successful launches of Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile (VL-SRSAM).
- The VL-SRSAM is indigenously designed and developed by DRDO for Indian Navy

First audio from Mars

- NASA, released the first audio from Mars.
- It was a faint crackling recording of the wind that was captured by Perseverance rover.

Anti-tank Guided Missile

- India has successfully test-fired indigenously-developed anti-tank guided missile systems 'Helina' and 'Dhruvastra' in the Pokhran range.
- They are known as NAG Missile System.

Spacecraft Named in Honor of mathematician

- A space supply ship, Cygnus NG-15 cargo dubbed as 'S.S. Katherine Johnson.
- It has been named in honour of Katherine Johnson.
- She is a NASA mathematician.
- She played a major role in the success of the first U.S. crewed spaceflight, Mercury-Atlas 6 Mission

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

UN Global Climate Survey :-

- United Nations has released its biggest ever opinion poll on climate change.
- It is called "UN Global Climate Survey".
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) conducted the "Peoples' Climate Vote" for 1.2 million people from 50 countries to prepare this report.

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GLOBAL CLIMATE LITIGATION REPORT 2021 :-

- UNEP has released its “Global Climate Litigation Report 2021”.
- The report was published by the UNEP in cooperation with the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia University.

Kaliveli Wetlands – Bird Sanctuary

- Villupuram district administration in Tamil Nadu has issued the first declaration under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.
- The declaration was issued in a bid to declare Kaliveli wetland as a bird sanctuary.
- It will boost their efforts to protect the wetland.
- The Kaliveli Wetlands is the second-largest brackish water lake in South India.
- The first largest is the Pulicat lake
- The Kalivelilake is connected to the Bay of Bengal through the Uppukali Creek and the Edayanthittu Sanctuary.
- The Southern part of this wetland was declared a reserved land in the year 2001.

Thunderstorm Research Testbed of India

- India’s first thunderstorm research testbed will be established in Balasore, Odisha.
- It is being established with the objective to minimize the human fatalities and loss of property caused by the lightning strikes.
- The Monsoon Testbed will also be set up near Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh.
- The monsoon testbed would also be first-of-its-kind.

Public Platform to track Polluters

- The Environment Ministry of China recently announced to set up a new Public Information Platform.
- This Platform will help the authorities to prosecute the public who will break the rules.
- It will also prosecute the public in case they try to evade supervision.

Mandarin Duck

- The Mandarin duck was spotted in Assam recently after 118 years.
- It is a colorful duck and it is having habitat of eastern China and southern Japan.
- The last Mandarin duck was spotted in Assam in the year 1902.

11th edition of the Tamirabarani Waterbird Count

- It was conducted in waterbodies of Tirunelveli, Tuticorin and Tenkasi districts.

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- It showed a marginal increase in the numbers compared to the tenth edition of the count in 2020 when 24,411 birds from 74 species were spotted.

Fossils of 'Dickinsonia'

- Researchers have discovered three fossils of the earliest known living animal, the 550-million-year-old 'Dickinsonia'.
- It was discovered on the roof of the Bhimbetka Rock Shelters near Bhopal.
- One fossil is 17 inches long, the other two are much smaller.

1st Elevated Wildlife Corridor

- The Delhi-Dehradun Expressway will have the country's first Elevated Wildlife Corridor.
- The project will have a six-lane elevated wildlife corridor spanning 12 kilometres.

World's Smallest Reptile

- The world's smallest species of reptiles have been found in Madagascar.
- It is a species of a chameleon and called Brookesia nana.
- The length of the chameleon is 22 mm that is 0.86 inches in all.

Oldest DNA recovery

- The Scientists have recovered the oldest DNA on record from the teeth of Siberian Mammoths.
- These mammoths were found in the north-eastern Siberia some 1.2 million years ago.
- Mammoths is the species of extinct elephantid of genus Mammuthus.

Rare Birds sighted in Mangalore

- The rare birds namely the Yellow-Billed Babbler, Green Sandpiper and GreyNecked Bunting were spotted in the Mangalore University.
- The team of birdwatchers spotted 108 species of birds in Mangalore University

US officially re-joins Paris Climate agreement

- The landmark Paris climate agreement was signed in 2015.
- As per this agreement, the countries are expected to enhance their commitments to curb greenhouse gas emissions every five years.
- The goals of the global pact are to limit global warming to well below 2°C.
- It also aims to pursue the efforts to limit it to 1.5°C

Ban on Vulture-Toxic Drugs

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- Bangladesh has become the first country that has banned the painkiller ketoprofen used widely to treat the cattle.
- But this painkiller is toxic to vultures.
- The Indian government had banned the use of diclofenac for veterinary purpose in the year 2006.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Pandit Bhimsen Joshi

- The year-long Birth Centenary celebrations of legendary classical singer Pandit Bhimsen Joshi began on February 04, 2021.
- He was an Indian vocalist from Karnataka.
- He is known for the khayal form of singing.
- He belongs to the Kiranagarhara of Hindustani Classical Music.
- His concerts were advertised by posters in New York.
- This happened for the first time for a musician from India.
- He also organized the Sawai Gandharva Music Festival annually.
- He was awarded the Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship in the year 1998.
- In 2009 he received, the India's highest civilian honour, Bharat Ratna.

Youngest female pilot

- Ayesha Aziz, a 25-year-old from Kashmir is the youngest female pilot in the country.
- In the year 2011, Ayesha Aziz became the youngest student pilot to get a license at the age of 15.
- She underwent training to fly a MIG-29 jet at Russia's Sokol airbase

First Woman chief of WTO

- Nigerian-born Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala is set to become the first woman and the first African to serve as the World Trade Organization chief.
- She was elected after withdrawal of the South Korea's candidate.
- The Six men have served as directors-general since its founding in 1995.

Wildlife Photographer of the Year 2021

- Robert Irwin, an Australian wildlife photographer, has won the first prize in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year People's Choice Award Contest.
- Robert won the award for the image titled 'bushfire'.
- It is the picture of the devastating Australian Bushfire in 2020.

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- He captured using a drone, near the Steve Irwin Wildlife Reserve in Cape York, Queensland of Australia.
- The image shows a line of fire burning in between the bushes, dividing it into parts.

Women Excellence Award 2021

- Four young women fellows of National Science Academies have been awarded for excelling in science and engineering on the International Day of Women and Girls in Science 2021.
- This award was launched in the year 2013.
- The winners are:
 - Dr. Shobhna Kapoor - Chemical Biology
 - Dr. Antara Banerjee - Health Sciences
 - Dr. Sonu Gandhi – Bio nanotechnology
 - Dr. Ritu Gupta – Nanotechnology

New ICC chief prosecutor

- British human rights lawyer Karim Khan was elected as the new prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC).

Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award - 2020

- S. Theodore Baskaran, a naturalist and an activist, has won the Sanctuary Lifetime Service Award, 2020.
- Earlier, he was awarded a Lifetime Achievement Award (IyalVirudhu) for his writing on nature in Tamil.

Skoch CM of the Year

- Andhra Pradesh's Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has been conferred the Skoch Chief Minister of the Year award.
- The award selection was based on study of project-level outcomes in various States.

TIME magazine's list

- Bhim Army chief Chandra Shekhar Azad has featured in TIME magazine's annual list of 100 "emerging leaders who are shaping the future".
- The list names as "2021 TIME100 Next".

Book 'Maverick Messiah'

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- The Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu released a book 'Maverick Messiah'.
- The book is a political biography of 'N T Rama Rao', the former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.
- It has been authored by senior journalist, Ramesh Kandula.

World Leadership Congress

- SifyTechnologies's Kamal Nath has been named 'CEO of the Year' by the World Leadership Congress.
- PTC India Financial Services has bagged award in Financial Services category.

International Anti-corruption Champions Award

- An Indian social activist, Anjali Bhardwaj has been selected for the "United State International Anti-Corruption Champions Award".
- Anjali is the founder of 'SatarkNagrikSangathan (SNS)'.
- It is a citizens' group that promote transparency and accountability in government.

Youngest woman to row Atlantic

- A British woman, Jasmine Harrison of England has become the youngest woman to row solo across the Atlantic Ocean.
- She achieved the feat by finishing top in the 2020 Talisker Whisky Atlantic Challenge

IMPORTANT DAYS

International Safer Internet Day (SID) – February 09

- It was first initiated in 2004. It is as part of the EU's 'Better Internet for Kids' policy.
- Each year, the SID initiative aims to increase awareness about emerging online issues
- The theme of this year is 'An internet we trust: exploring reliability in the online world'

World Radio Day - February 13

- In 2011, UNESCO's General Conference, at its 36th session, proclaimed February 13 as World Radio Day.
- This year will be celebrated through three sub-themes.
 - Evolution: The world changes, radio evolves so the radio is resilient and sustainable;
 - Innovation: The world changes, radio adapts and innovates - radio adapts to new technologies and remains the go-to medium of mobility, accessible everywhere and to everyone;

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- Connection: The world changes, radio connects - radio services our society during natural disasters, socio-economic crises, epidemics, etc.

Sarojini Naidu Birth Anniversary/National Women's Day of India 2021

- National Women's Day is celebrated on Sarojini Naidu's birthday.
- She was famous for her nickname 'Nightingale of India' or 'Bharat Kokila' because of her poems.
- This year is the 142nd birth anniversary of Sarojini Naidu.

SPORTS

- Ravichandran Ashwin surpassed Harbhajan Singh to become the second highest wicket-taker (268) in Tests played in India
- Priyanka Goswami, beat the national record in the 20-km walk.

National Table Tennis Title

- Manika Batra has won the 82nd Senior National Table Tennis Championship.
- In 2018, she was the only Indian who received "The Breakthrough Star Award" by ITTF.
- In 2020, she also received the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award.

Australian Open 2021

- Novak Djokovic, the world-number one Serbian Tennis player, won his 9th Australian Title.
- This is the second time for such winning.